



Insight

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AER: taking care of Soldiers

Army Emergency Relief is all about the Army and the chain of command taking care of its own.

It is the place Soldiers turn to for immediate financial assistance when faced with Soldier-related crises and family emergencies that don't "fit" the normal range of remedies available through Army support channels - rapid, no frills assistance to our Soldiers worldwide - cash for travel home to see a sick parent; money for an overdue utility bill or baby formula; a hundred other scenarios that can't wait for formal bureaucratic or commercial loan processes.

No other program delivers so much, so directly to Soldiers - 95 cents on every donated dollar comes directly back to Soldiers - over \$880 million to date.

AER is rated among the very "best charities in America" by *Give and Charity Navigator*, who investigate and rate charities on the basis of how the money they receive is spent.

With the challenges associated with Global War on Terrorism operations, AER's role and importance have grown. This year's

annual AER campaign opens March 1. I strongly encourage every INSCOM member, both military and civilian, to donate generously to this exceptional fund.

AER is used by platoon, company and battalion level leaders every day to solve pressing Soldier problems. Reciprocal agreements with the Air Force Aid Society, Coast Guard Mutual Assistance, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society and the American Red Cross enable them to operate in Joint environments without a major Army presence. They can even transmit funds through the Department of State to Soldiers in remote areas outside the continental U.S. That makes AER assistance available at more than 1,800 locations around the world.

AER was established in 1942; since that time it has helped more than 2.9 million Soldiers and their families overcome temporary financial emergencies of one sort or another. While the bulk of their funds go to active duty troops, AER also assist widows and widowers; it also has a robust educational scholarship program. AER's primary limitation? How



DA photo

much they take in each year during their annual fund drive; all of AER funds comes from voluntary contributions from within the Army Family. Their 2005 campaign theme is "One Nation, One Army, One Organization" - a reflection of our dependence on each other and AER's dedication to all components of America's Army: active duty, National Guard and reserve.

AER has always been there for us when we needed it - I urge each of you to reach down deep and contribute as much as possible to this exceptionally worthwhile cause.

Please help the Army take care of its own.

Maj. Gen. John F. Kimmons

902nd MI Group comes home



courtesy photo

Soldiers from the 902nd MI Group returned home after deploying in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

by Kevin Young
SoundOFF!

The 902nd Military Intelligence Group closed another chapter in its history with the return of nearly two dozen Soldiers and civilians at the Fort Meade Training Center, Fort Meade, Md., Feb. 2. As the group marched off their bus and into the main ballroom the cheers of friends, comrades and family welcomed them.

The redeployment was the return of the remaining troops of Task Force Vigilant Freedom from the War on Terror in Iraq. The task force's accomplishments have attracted an unusual amount of attention to the 902nd MI Group, according to

Lt. Col. Lucie Stagg, task force commander, who said the deployment to Iraq was unique for two reasons.

First, the unit normally deploys small groups, tailored to a specific job and area. But this time a large group was required to meet the Army's needs. Though mostly made up of the 310th MI Battalion, individuals from throughout the group were deployed to support the mission.

Secondly, the mission forced a change in focus from the unit's familiar counter-intelligence duties into the area of human intelligence (HUMINT).

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704th honored by CIA

by Sgt. Sarah Smith
704th MI Brigade

At the height of the Global War on Terrorism, Soldiers are on the frontlines around the world protecting the freedoms and livelihood of Americans. Back home, heroic war stories of these Soldiers and their front-line actions make headlines almost daily.

Some might forget the military intelligence community fosters heroes. But much has to do with the secretive, behind-the-scenes work many of them perform.

The discreet heroics of the 742nd Military Intelligence Battalion, 704th MI Brigade earned unit members the National Intelligence Meritorious Unit Citation, Jan. 7. The CIA presented the award during a ceremony at their headquarters in Langley, Va.

"Intelligence truly is the pointy end of the spear," said the Honorable Porter J. Goss, CIA director, during the awards ceremony. "We are collectively keeping America safe at a critical time in our nation," he added, referring to the Global War on Terrorism.

According to the award nomination written by Capt. Aimee DeJarnette, commander, Headquarters and Operations Company, the battalion "provided significant contributions to the intelligence community and operational activities in the Global



courtesy photo

Soldiers from the 742nd MI Battalion, 704th MI Brigade accept the National Intelligence Meritorious Unit Citation, Jan. 7.

War on Terrorism."

The nomination also stated that the battalion and Army Technical Control and Analysis Element instituted enhanced support to deployed military units and intelligence assets operating in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The unit citation is a welcome surprise because much of what the 742nd MI Battalion does is of the "behind the scenes" nature.

"They can't even tell their parents, their spouse or their friends what they do," said Lt. Col. Lisa Bennett, commander, 742nd MI Battalion.

For these Soldiers who directly or indirectly support the National Security Agency

enterprise mission, the award gave them an accomplishment they could openly talk about, Bennett said.

"This award process is the only way that I can legally and publicly recognize these marvelous Soldiers," she said.

In one portion of the award nomination it stated that the battalion "provided critical real-time cryptologic and signals intelligence support to the Defense Intelligence Agency, the Central Intelligence Agency and operational elements of the supported combatant commands, without which many of the decisive actions against terrorist

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Millions risk life, vote in Iraq

by Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense

On January 30th in Iraq, the world witnessed an important moment in the global struggle against tyranny, a moment that historians might one day call a major turning point. America's men and women in uniform, who were instrumental in the liberation of Iraq, were there to witness this moment as well.

During the struggle to bring freedom to Iraq, many of you have faced difficult times far from home. I suspect there have been moments along the way when some of you may have wondered whether or not the effort would be worth the cost, or whether, even, the people you were trying to help truly stood with you.

Last Sunday, the Iraqi people answered those understandable questions in a resounding way, just as voters had in Afghanistan last October. The world is experiencing a global struggle between freedom and fear - and you are on the side of freedom. That's the side to be on. And the people of Afghanistan, and now the people of Iraq, have chosen to stand with you.

Consider the courage it took for the Iraqi people to go to the polls when they had been warned that the act of voting could cost them and their family members their lives. Think of the determination they must have possessed to risk becoming targets for bombings

or beheadings.

And yet the Iraqis voted - millions of them.

Voters arrived on crutches and donkey carts, passing by graffiti warnings on the walls that said: "You vote, you die"; Iraqis came to a polling station to vote even after a rocket attack had killed three people several hours earlier; children waved Iraqi flags as they witnessed the birth of their new, free system; elderly women with tears in their eyes held up their voting cards; and voters displayed their ink-stained fingers as badges of honor in the fight against extremism.

Iraq's security forces also deserve recognition for their bravery and their willingness, despite the threats, to wear their country's uniforms and to provide security on Sunday for both the millions of voters and the thousands of election workers.

These are times of consequence. In the past few months, 50 million free people in Afghanistan and Iraq have begun to build new futures. They have rejected the extremism that fuels attacks on civilized people. And you have made that possible. Have no doubt: the courage and sacrifices of U.S. forces have helped to create the environment in which Afghans and Iraqis are developing the ability to take hold of their countries.

Now these free people continue to seek your help in



Army photo

Sec. of Defense Donald Rumsfeld.

building free, democratic and peaceful nations in some of the world's most violent regions. No one treasures peace more than you who have endured the horrors of war.

So to all of you who are serving on freedom's front lines, and to your families, I offer my deepest appreciation and respect. To those who have lost friends or loved ones during this conflict or who have been injured in defense of our freedom, find comfort in knowing that your sacrifices have historic meaning. And know that one day, the people of Iraq and Afghanistan will find a way to thank you, as I do, from the bottom of my heart.

May God bless you and may God bless the United States.

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Stagg said it was a radical change for each individual and the unit to make, but they took the change in stride. According to their proud commander, they were excellent. "We have established a new standard of tactical HUMINT collection," said Stagg, "Because we have set the precedent, there are probably more missions like this for our group in the future."

Capt. Brian Jackson previously redeployed with the task force and is now a company commander in the 902nd MI Group. He said that during his deployment, he spent time at forward bases with combat units and agreed that their mission was a significant change to the way they usually do business.

Despite the deserved accolades, these Soldiers and civilians weren't waiting for ribbons, medals, certificates or



photo by Mary Phelps

Kelly Ray welcomes home her husband, Sgt. Cordell Ray, after his deployment to Iraq with Task Force Vigilant Freedom, Feb. 2.

awards when they were standing in their final formation. They were waiting to go home. Understanding their desires, Col. Greg Potter, commander, 902nd MI Group, made a few

"welcome home" remarks and released the newly returned group to the hugs, kisses, handshakes, backslaps, wide smiles and warm welcomes of their friends and families.

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organizations and rogue regimes would not have been possible."

But since the award is also for complete unit mission accomplishment, support staff of mission workers were equally important. That includes battalion Soldiers who work in at least seven states in the United States, and a company-sized element deployed to either Afghanistan or Iraq.

Although the 742nd MI Battalion is mostly populated with intelligence-related military occupational specialties, it is also houses legal,

medical, acquisition, transportation, ordinance, adjutant general and signal Soldiers, said Bennett.

Of the handful of Soldiers who attended the awards ceremony, some work at the NSA, while others work closer to the command group. Regardless of their place at the unit, they seemed to understand the achievement as a team effort.

Sgt. Melissa Garate, Headquarters and Operations Company, 742nd MI Battalion, saw the team effect by personal experience. She is the Security Office noncommissioned officer in charge for

the battalion. Garate also spent six months in Iraq working in the Security Office.

"Being here (Fort Meade) is more of a support role, but I'm helping them do the mission," she said.

However, when Garate was in Iraq, her role was the essence of the mission.

But, without mission and support staff working together, she said the job could not get done.

As the only numbered unit out of 21 awardees to be recognized, the hard work paid off. This was the third award won by the battalion and its subordinate elements.

INSCOM EEO: help wanted

The U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command Equal Employment Opportunity Office is looking for volunteers to participate in several Command Special Emphasis Programs.

Those personnel interested, will perform collateral duties in programs such as Federal Women's Program, Hispanic Employment Program, Black Employment Program, Individuals with Disabilities Program, Native American/Alaskan Native Employment Program, and the Asian/Pacific American Employment Program.

"These collateral positions are the very heart of the EEO Program," said Brady Jones, command EEO director. "They are the people that make these programs work. Individuals participating as program managers earn valuable

program management experience, receive training in EEO and Special Emphasis Programs, and attend training conferences."

According to Jones, responsibilities of the collateral positions of Special Emphasis Program personnel will be to assist the Command EEO Office in accomplishing affirmative employment within the command with sponsored ethnic observances designed to enhance cross-cultural awareness among the workforce.

The Special Emphasis Program observances are authorized and required by regulations to enhance employment opportunities and relationships among targeted groups.

For more information, contact Brady Jones at (703) 428-4648.

Looking for the best of the best

Maj. Gen. John F. Kimmons, commanding general, U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command, will host the 28th Annual Command Awards in conjunction with INSCOM's organizational day scheduled for June 24 at Fort Belvoir, Va.

Kimmons highly encourages the INSCOM workforce to submit nominations for each category of award listed below relevant to their respective work force. The suspense date for submitting nominations is March 4.

The eleven nominating categories are:

- The Albert W. Small Award
- The Jackie Keith Action Officer of the Year

Award

- The Virginia McDill Award
- The Local National Employee of the Year

Award

- The Equal Employment Opportunity Award (Civilian)
- The Equal Opportunity Award (Military)
- The Annual Wage Grade Employee of the Year
- The Col. Richard F. Judge Military-Civilian Team Improvement Award (to one civilian and one military)

- The Volunteer of the Year Award (one individual and one group or unit)

- The Quality/Customer Service of the Year

For more information, call Gloria Rallis at (703) 428-4681, or Ron Gunter, (703) 428-4687.



Spouse scholarship program

ALEXANDRIA, VA, — The National Military Family Association announced that applications are being accepted for the NMFA's Joanne Holbrook Patton Military Spouse Scholarship Program. The scholarships are awarded to uniformed services spouses (active, retired, reserve, guard or survivor) to obtain professional certification or to attend post secondary or graduate school for an academic year.

Scholarships are normally in the amount of \$1,000. The scholarship funds may be used to assist with tuition, fees, books, and school room and board, so long as the funds are paid directly to the educational institution involved. The 2005 Awards were made possible through a donation from General Dynamics and several individual donors. Applications are only accepted online and are due on March 31.

NMFA recognizes that the military lifestyle presents unique challenges to military spouses. Frequent moves can



courtesy photo

The National Military Family Association is accepting applications for the Joanne Holbrook Patton Military Spouse Scholarship Program.

interfere with military spouses' ability to complete their post secondary education, thus negatively impacting their professional development and long-term career progression.

NMFA's military spouse scholarship program is one step toward helping military spouses gain the education that they need to reach their full career potential.

Bank of America conducting maintenance

Individuals throughout the U.S. Army on temporary duty may have problems accessing their money at the end of the month.

According to information released by the Bank of America Government Card Services, an annual preventative system maintenance is scheduled for Feb. 20 from 12:01 a.m. until 8:00 a.m. Eastern Time. During this time, cardholders will not have access to ATMs for cash advances. Also, during this maintenance, customized authorization controls, such as specific spending limits set by individual agencies will not be available.

Bank of America asks that anyone who may be affected make preparations in advance for any ATM needs during the maintenance period.

If emergency cash is needed during this time, individuals may contact MasterCard Global Service at 1 (800) 307-7309 or Visa at 1 (800) VISA-911.